



KERMIT ROOSEVELT

A Modern Roosevelt On Safari

A SENTIMENTAL SAFARI.
By Kermit Roosevelt.
(Knopf; \$6.95.)

Kermit Roosevelt, a grandson of President Theodore Roosevelt, describes vividly and with an accumulation of informative reflections the African safari in which he and his sons, Jonathan and Kermit, jr., in 1960 retraced the ground which the former President covered in his famous big-game hunt of 50 years before.

TR (as the author refers to him throughout the book, to distinguish him from the various other Roosevelts involved) started on his safari just after leaving the White House in 1909. He traveled by ship, railroad a way, then by horseback with wagons carrying supplies when feasible. The journey from east Africa through the interior to the Nile took 10 months. Kermit Roosevelt's party traveled in jets to Africa, then rode in Landrovers and other motor vehicles. They made the same distance in a month.

A Different Africa

Naturally the country had changed—its nationalistic ferments hardly heard of in Theodore Roosevelt's time—and its game supplies had greatly diminished. Nonetheless, Kermit Roosevelt found traces of his grandfather's safari here and there, even talked to a few persons who

remembered the indefatigable TR. The ex-President's "African Game Trails" was the bible of the new safari. Altogether, Kermit Roosevelt felt that the expedition had enabled him for the first time really to know his grandfather, who died when he was 3 years old.

It would be a mistake to think that this book is only about rifles and hunting. Actually the Kermit Roosevelt party shot very little game and that mostly the deer—and antelope-like animals with strange names—which provided the camps with meat and a few larger animals which the Smithsonian Institution wanted as mounted specimens. Kermit, jr., in fact, confined most of his efforts to photography, though he did shoot a leopard.

Game Depletion

The author, after talking to a number of authorities, including naturalists, concluded that hunters are only in small part responsible for the depletion of game. Cultivation of lands which once belonged to the animals, driving them into often arid regions without adequate food, and animal diseases, have played a major role. In some areas, such as Kenya, lions and rhinos are greatly depleted, so are cheetah, wild dog, lynx (caracal), roan antelope and sable, the latter practically extinct.

What is the most dangerous animal to man? The author reports the buffalo, according to the consensus of those he consulted, with the elephant close behind. The lion, in present thinking, is down the list a way, although Teddy Roosevelt, who shot a good many lions, thought them the greatest menace, as did others in that era.

Kermit Roosevelt is a resident of Washington and has been identified with the Capital many years. He was a consultant to the Secretary of State from 1947 to 1957 and at present is a vice president of the Gulf Oil Corp.

—CARTER BROOKS JONES

STAT

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW